

NOTE

On The Identity of *Dysmesus* Chamberlin:
A New Generic Synonymy
(Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha: Geophilidae)

There are in the Geophilomorpha a number of putative taxa, both species and genera, that owe their inception and continued existence to chance defects of dissection or to the anomalies occasioned by the caprices of various mounting techniques and media, or to all three. *Dysmesus* is such a genus. It was proposed in 1944 (Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser. 28(4): 193) by R. V. Chamberlin, who referred to it just one new species, *orites*, which had been collected in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee. Therefore, *orites* is the type-species of *Dysmesus* by original designation and monotypy.

I have examined the holo- and allotypic slides of *orites* and find them referable to the holarctic *Brachygeophilus* Broelemann, 1909 (= *Dysmesus* Chamberlin, NEW SYNONYMY). Owing to the very unsatisfactory condition of both specimens I cannot at the moment be certain that they are not really referable to *B. truncorum* (Bergsöe and Meinert), type-species of *Brachygeophilus*. Provisionally I assume the two species to be different, for the burden of the evidence known to me favors that assumption. Accordingly, I recognize three species of *Brachygeophilus* known to occur in the eastern United States: *truncorum* (Bergsöe and Meinert), *rupestris* Crabill, and *orites* (Chamberlin) (NEW COMBINATION).

In fact in his original description Chamberlin compared *Dysmesus* to *Brachygeophilus* but attributed to his new genus a feature of major importance that is nearly unique among all members of the order and that would be absolutely unique in the Geophilidae (*sensu* Chamberlin, *nec* Attems): "coxosternum of the second maxillae preserving a distinct median suture."

The first and second maxillae are preserved only on the holotypic slide where they are badly fragmented and badly mounted in Canada balsam. Torn down the midline, the second maxillary coxosternum only appears to be medially sutured. This chance deception must have been further reinforced by the presence of torn tissues partly *in situ* and by the unsatisfactory refractive index of very old and very tired Canada balsam.

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